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### Professor Nason reports on National Humanities

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# NEWS

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PROF. MASON REPORTS ON

NATIONAL HUMANITIES

General objectives of the National Council on the Humanities were reported Sunday by Dr. David R. Mason, member of the Council and professor of law at the University of Montana.

Prof. Mason is one of six persons from west of the Mississippi who have been selected by President Johnson to serve on the 26 man Council.

The Council met early in March, when the members were sworn in and general guidelines and objectives were first discussed. The results of that session were released Sunday, March 20, by Dr. Henry Allen Moe, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Prof. Mason said that applications for assistance under the National Endowment for the Humanities were not going to be considered by the Council until the guidelines and objectives of the Council were delineated and thoroughly communicated to interested persons in the humanities.

When commissioning the members of the Council on March 3, President Johnson said, the Council "has a crucial role to play--not only in enriching scholarship, but in enriching life for all men. We believe in America that men of thought and men of action must not be isolated but closely bound together....We have the material power to conquer economic want. Now we need the will to attack the poverty of man's spirit--and you must lead that attack."

The guidelines the Council released are concerned with assistance to individual scholars and assistance to group activities. An initial \$2.5 million was appropriated by Congress to kick off the program.

Both this Council and the National Council on the Arts were established in 1965, but the Humanities appointments took longer than those in the Arts and the Humanities Council is just now beginning to function.

MORE



The Humanities Council believes it would be true to "the traditions of the value of the individual, which our whole philosophy of government was evolved to protect," if it were to begin its concern with the individual man or woman working in the humanities. The Council is determined to assist those individuals whose work will be of use to the American society.

It will support 1) qualified persons on summer fellowships to pursue their studies toward advanced degrees, 2) qualified persons on annual scholarships to complete or further their studies in significant humanistic scholarship, and 3) still others pursuing humanistic truth will be assisted with advanced study grants, if they demonstrate original ability of the highest order. The lattermost would not necessarily be persons from academic fields.

The Council's assistance would be available to groups interested in 1) archaeological-historical studies in the field; 2) conserving, staffing, cataloguing and publishing holdings in local humanistic museums; 3) improving and developing new methods in computer-oriented humanistic research;

4) the study of classical languages and cultures, from which much that is fundamental to our own society is derived; 5) the translation of works of humanistic significance from foreign languages, both ancient and modern;

6) the study of key works in medieval scholarship in law, literature, religion, and philosophy; 7) studies in the art of criticism, which is a child of the humanistic spirit; 8) studies of educational uses of radio and television; 9) recordings of literature and other studies for those who are unable to read;

10) support of historical studies of the United States, which is a history of the guarding of the ramparts of freedom drawn from many other histories; 11) preparation of editions of American writings, including both the public and private papers of great Americans and definitive editions of important American writers.